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## MOUNTAINSIDE BOY SCOUT TROOP 177

In the Fall, Boy Scout Troop 177 kept busy with several hikes, the Cop Trot, and holiday wreath sale fundraising. We partnered with the Cub Scouts to collect food for Thanksgiving and honored our nation's heroes for Veterans Day.

At the end of 2023, we hosted our court of honor, where a total of 100 merit badges, ten rank advancements, and eight National Outdoor Camping Awards were presented. We handed out a new award, the John Huss Jr. Captain's Award, to honor his memory and celebrate excellence in the troop. The first award went to Patrick Huss, our Senior Patrol Leader, for his leadership, bravery, and perseverance in a tough year for him, his family, and the community overall.

The winter will be filled with more activities, such as the Klondike Derby, camping, and hiking. This spring, we plan to camp at Sandy Hook and Gettysburg. This summer, most of the troop will attend summer camp in the Poconos, and a venture crew trip will challenge themselves on a two-week trip at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

If you are interested in Scouting, please get in touch with the Troop 177 Scoutmaster, Jeff Healy, at [jeffhealy8@gmail.com](mailto:jeffhealy8@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook at [MountainsideBoyScouts.com](http://MountainsideBoyScouts.com).

Courtesy photos



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**ELKS RECEIVE VETERANS WELCOME HOME KITS**

Recently, twenty-five area Elks and volunteers helped to restock the shelves at the NJ State Elks Veterans Annex in Stirling. The items that were received will be assembled into Welcome Home Kits and delivered free of charge to previously homeless Veterans who are moving into a new residence.

Welcome Home Kits include a bed, night stand, dresser, sofa, dining table and chairs, lamps, bedding, linens, appliances, cleaning supplies, a shower curtain, mats, pots and pans, flatware, glassware, and more. All items are brand new.

Enough items to assemble 20 Welcome Home Kits were purchased by the NJ Elks East Central District, with Lodges in Stirling, Summit, Springfield, Mountainside, Union, Cranford, and Rahway, at a cost of approximately \$10,000 which was provided through grants, donations, and fundraising events.

The NJ State Elks National Veterans Service

Commission has helped over 2,300 veterans since 2016 and makes 25-30 deliveries each month throughout the state. The NJ State Veterans Annex was recently featured in "Givers of Hope" view on YouTube: [youtu.be/Qvndf\\_310Y4](https://youtu.be/Qvndf_310Y4)

Every night, as many as 40,000 veterans are sleeping on the streets. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has pledged to help end veteran homelessness, and ensure that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve. In New Jersey, Elks volunteers provide direct service to over 1,000 veterans in multiple VA homes and connect with veterans and military members in their communities, providing them with services where they live.

Please email [njelksnvsc@gmail.com](mailto:njelksnvsc@gmail.com) to learn more about what NJ State Elks do to help veterans and visit [Elks.org](http://Elks.org) for more information about the Elks and how to join. Courtesy photo



(above) Area Elks and volunteers - Elks Care and Elks Share.



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# THE FEBRUARY SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD

The Summit Area Old Guard was founded in 1930 and meets most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends."

February speakers include Scott Hough, Ed Oatman or Amy Wagner, Dr. Yaron Moshel, and Amy Behr-Shields. Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

Our speaker on **Tuesday, February 6th** will be Scott Hough, Superintendent of Schools, Summit, NJ. Scott will give us an overview of the school system and describe the impact covid had and how he dealt with it (he was appointed to his position in June 2020!). Scott will also discuss critical issues facing all school administrators, such as bullying, security and student safety. Roughly one half of Summit's annual budget goes to support the public schools, and the appeal of Summit as a great place to live is supported by its excellent schools.

Our speaker on **Tuesday, February 13th** will be either the manager or deputy manager of Union County, NJ. Union County has a diverse population equivalent in size to that of Wyoming and a budget of a half billion dollars. Most people are quite familiar with their own city or town, but usually know much less about their county. Ed Oatman, manager, or Amy Wagner, deputy manager, will hopefully change that for you. County operations include areas such as law enforcement/courts, parks & recreation, public works -roads and infrastructure, health care, economic development, and a lot more.

On **Tuesday, February 20th**, Dr. Yaron Moshel, co-director of the Gerald J. Glasser Brain Tumor Center at Atlantic Health System's Overlook Medical Center, will be our speaker. He is one of a select few surgeons who specialize in removing deep-seated brain tumors using technology that includes computer-guided navigation, awake intraoperative brain mapping, endoscopy, and

microsurgery. Dr. Moshel will explain how the convergence of precision medicine, advanced robotics, and specialized imaging are fostering new breakthroughs in the treatment of brain and spine tumors.

Finally, on **Tuesday, February 27th**, we ask the question, 'with so much information accessible online, is a public library still relevant'? Amy Behr-Shields, the Director of the Summit Free Library, will explain how the library is needed to curate reliable sources of information, and to manage the complexities of digital and non-digital media, while serving as a community center and a welcoming environment. You will also be surprised to learn how many varied programs and services the library offers.

Past speakers and much more can be viewed at SummitOldGuard.org but we encourage people to drop in on our meetings which take place at the church at 10:00 a.m. most Tuesdays. "Come for the Speakers. Stay for the Friends."

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Photo from left, Lantern Hill Business Office Manager Debra Vlahakis, Director of General Services Ed Zappile, and Housekeeping Manager, recently volunteered at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside.

For more information, visit LanternHill.com.



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# IMAGINE VOLUNTEER FEBRUARY TRAINING

A recent participant in Imagine's last volunteer facilitator training shared this about her experience: "The training was truly amazing and inspiring. I am so honored to have had the opportunity to participate in it." Another shared: "The Imagine Staff are amazing. I so appreciate all the knowledge they shared and the encouragement they gave to me and the other participants."

Participants in Imagine's training programs often describe the experience as "life-changing". In addition to story sharing and the opportunity to support one another, training participants gain knowledge and skills regarding Alan Wolfelt's Companioning Model for grief support that's practiced at Imagine. Participants often walk away with a new understanding of themselves, and a new capacity for supporting the people in their lives. They bring this understanding to their role as facilitators in Imagine's peer support group program where children, youth, young adults and adults come together to share their grief experiences and receive and give support.

Imagine's volunteer facilitators come from all walks of life and no special background is required other than a willingness to listen, a heart inclined to serve, and the ability to be with children and adults in grief without trying to fix, solve or give advice. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers must be 18 years or older. Bilingual (Spanish speaking) volunteers are needed as well. Volunteers serve as companions and loving listeners for those who are grieving and help create a space where participants can share tears and embrace the joys of life.

If you'd like to join us for Imagine's next facilitator training, it will be held Saturday, Feb. 17th through Monday, February 19th from 9 am-5 pm each day at Imagine's Newark Center at 570 Broad Street in Newark, and we ask that our new volunteers attend the entire training. Our new Newark center is located downtown in the Chase building with parking available directly behind the building. It's also close to public transportation. We're hoping those completing the training will be able to facilitate groups held every other week at our Newark center. We have

Imagine  
a world where no  
child grieves alone



so many children and families currently in need of support that we're planning to launch a new Night of Support in Newark. We're also looking for a few new facilitators for our Mountainside location.

If you're interested in making a difference in the lives of grieving families and would like to participate in this transformative training experience, please visit Imagine's website at [imaginej.org](http://imaginej.org) or scan the bar code below to let us know of your interest. Please reach out to Imagine's Program Supervisor, Abigail Preece, LPC at [abigail@imaginej.org](mailto:abigail@imaginej.org) with any questions.

Imagine is a 501c3 nonprofit that offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or [info@imaginej.org](mailto:info@imaginej.org).

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## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



The Blanche M. and George L. Watts Mountainside Community Foundation annually provides one or more college scholarships to a graduating senior residing in Mountainside. The Foundation will also entertain applications from students applying to associate degree programs at community colleges and certificate programs at accredited technical or trade schools. The scholarship will be awarded based on financial need, academic competency (we are not necessarily looking for A students), community involvement and merit.

**All applications must be completed and returned no later than April 1, 2024.**

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## OPERA ON FILM LINEUP

Mountainside Resident Mena Clemson hosts the Mountainside Rescue Squads' 10th season of Opera on Film. Come and socialize and enjoy the films-we provide a synopsis, and the films are subtitled.

### THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE IS:

**Madam Butterfly, 1974 by Puccini with Placido Domingo, M.Freni**

1 hr. 45 mins.

February 9th, 1 p.m.

**La Bohemne, 1982 by Puccini with Jose Carreras, Teresa Stratas, Renata Scotto**

2 hrs. 25 mins.

March 8th, 1 p.m.

**Othello, 1986 by Verdi with Placido Domingo, Katia Ricciarelli**

1 hr. 58 mins.

April 12th, 1 p.m.

**Roberto Devereux, 1979 by Donizetti with Beverly Sills, John Alexander**

2 hrs. 25 mins

May 10th, 1 p.m.

**Luisa Miller 1977 by Verdi with Placido Domingo, Renata Scotto**

2 hrs. 28 mins

June 14th, 1 p.m.

## MAH JONGG CLUB

The Mah Jongg Club of Watchung meets every Monday and Thursday afternoon at the Watchung Library beginning at 1:00 p.m. New players are welcome. Knowledge of the game is mandatory. The Club has been meeting at the Watchung Library for over 10 years. Members are from Watchung and surrounding towns. For more information, email Melanie Novello at [Novello1800@aol.com](mailto:Novello1800@aol.com).

## MOUNTAINSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1 Constitution Plaza, Mountainside, NJ 07092 • 908-233-0115 • [mountainsidelibrary.org](http://mountainsidelibrary.org)  
Monday, Thursday: 9:30am - 8:00pm; Tuesday, Wednesday: 9:30am - 6:00pm;  
Friday: 9:30am - 5:00pm; Saturday: 9:30am - 5:00pm; Sundays: closed

The Mountainside Library would like to remind our patrons that they can now register for our special programs online on our website at [Mountainsidelibrary.org](http://Mountainsidelibrary.org). Click on our full calendar and choose the event you would like to attend.

This February we continue our Winter Program schedule for youth and adults. In addition, we have 3 special programs available:

### Chocolate Truffle Making class

February 3rd from 2-4pm.

Join Library Director, Tammy Shaw, and learn to make treats for yourself or to share with someone special. Registration is required as space is limited. (adults only)

### Bright Star Touring Theatre presents African Folktales

February 7th from 3:45-4:45pm.

(all ages). Join us for a series of fun adventure tales from the continent of Africa. Registration is available online.

### Valentine Saturday and Lunar New Year event

February 10th at 11am.

Drop in to create unique valentines for your family and friends and a special dragon to help celebrate the Lunar New Year. Children under 5 will need an adult helper. No registration required.

### The Great Courses

Mondays at 1 p.m.

Our Friday afternoon movies continue at 1pm each week.

### Book Club Monday

February 5th at 6:30 p.m.

The book this month is West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### Youth Story Time

Feb 5th, 12th, and 26th) from 10:30 -11am

With Jennifer from Little Pathfinders. For preschoolers and their caregivers. Registration is required.

### Cuddle Story Time

Feb 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

from 10:30-11am.

### Toddler Story Time

Feb 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

from 10:30-11am.

Stories, songs and movement for 2 year olds with their caregivers. Registration is required.

### After School Yoga

Feb 14th, 21st and 28th from 3:45-4:15pm.

Yoga with Jennifer from Little Pathfinders for grades K-2. Wear comfy clothes, mats are provided. Registration is required.

### Family Story Time

Feb 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th

from 10:30-11am.

Favorite stories and more for all ages and their caregivers. Registration is required.

### Read to a Therapy Dog

Thursday, Feb 15th at 4pm.

Cuddle up and read to Bubbles and Magnolia our therapy dogs. Registration is required.

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## Monday February 5, 2024

7:00 PM LIVE @ The Nazareth Center. Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. 1571 South Martine Ave. Scotch Plains. Please register before 1/29/24. More details available at [www.ihmparish.net/alpha](http://www.ihmparish.net/alpha)

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# NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA WINTER FREE CONCERT - FEB 25

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) will present its 2024 Winter Concert on Sunday, February 25th at 3 pm at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

The concert will feature performances by three of NJIO's ensembles: Symphony Orchestra, Intermezzo Orchestra, and Prelude Ensemble. The Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director Warren Cohen, will play Beethoven's Leonore Overture no. 1 and Mendelssohn's Symphony no. 5, composed when he was only 21 years old. Also known as the Reformation Symphony, it contains musical references to both the Dresden "Amen" and Martin Luther's chorale "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" (A Mighty Fortress is our God).

NJIO's Intermezzo Orchestra, conducted by Oliver Hagen, will perform excerpts from

Beethoven's Symphony no. 5 and Symphony no. 2. The Prelude Ensemble, NJIO's entry-level group, is conducted by Elizabeth Maliszewski. Prelude will be performing La Rejouissance from Handel's Royal Fireworks Music and an arrangement of Beethoven's Greatest Hits!

In addition to playing in this beautiful performance space, this concert will be live-streamed and recorded.

Concert Details:  
Sunday, February 25th, 2024, at 3 pm (doors open at 2:40 pm)

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church  
716 Watchung Avenue  
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible. For more information regarding the concert or to inquire about patron services, please contact NJIO at



info@njio.org or visit NJIO's website at njio.org

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, now in its 30th season, has been nationally recognized as a leader in intergenerational excellence through its unique approach to teaching musical performance and as a model for intergenerational orchestras across the country. Depending on space availability, NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and varying skill levels each concert period to one of its several orchestras – no auditions needed!

This concert is made possible by funds from: the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; The Lillian Schenck Foundation; The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation; a collective contribution made by the Citizens Philanthropic Foundation and the Investors Foundation; Standish Foundation; and many other generous supporters. NJIO is a proud participating organization in the Families First Discovery Pass Program, a program of the NJ Departments of Health and Human Services.

**Orchestra Concert Free Admission** Sunday February 25, 2024 3 pm



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